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TEIGNMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
AND

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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H. M. DAVIES,  
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:  
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:  
DAWLISH U.D.C.  
NEWTON ABBOT R.O.C.  
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.  
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND  
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TELEPHONE: NEWTON ABBOT 715/6.

COUNCIL OFFICES.

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

TEIGNMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1955

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st. December, 1955.

The Death rate is once again very much below the National level after applying the Registrar General's factor for correction, due to the fact that there are many more older people in this District than are to be found in the more populous parts of the Country.

The comparison of the Death rates of the District and of the Country as a whole for the past five years are of interest:-

	Teignmouth	England and Wales.
1951	11.49	12.5
1952	12.09	11.3
1953	10.04	11.4
1954	9.53	11.3
1955	9.87	11.7

One hundred and sixty-three cases of Measles were notified during 1955, as opposed to the solitary case reported in 1954. Measles normally occur in epidemic form once every two years and it is of interest that the figure for 1955 is considerably less than that for 1953 when two hundred and forty-six cases were reported.

Sixty-six cases of Whooping Cough occurred in this Urban District during 1955.

The problem associated with the aged population in Teignmouth becomes progressively more acute as each year passes. More beds are slowly being provided by the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board for the elderly persons in need of care and attention, but the rate at which this additional accommodation is provided does not keep pace with the rapidly increasing demand, and, in consequence, the difficulty of finding beds for even the most urgent cases is becoming more acute each year.

Emergency action had to be taken during the year to remove three persons, two to Welfare accommodation and one to hospital, during 1955.



Camping is another problem which has to be dealt with in our area, and it must be admitted that there is a grave shortage of suitable camping sites for the thousands of campers who arrive in the district at the peak of the holiday season. As a result of this shortage of sites campers are occupying fields with inadequate water supplies and without sanitary arrangements. These fields and the surrounding hedges are very soon grossly polluted and a danger to the campers and also to the nearby residents.

One appreciates that the Planning Authority desires to retain the amenities of the district, but it seems to me to be a matter of urgency that more suitable fields are licensed in order that the campers who will inevitably arrive should be given the basic requirements of sanitation and a fine water supply.

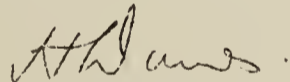
Samples of the District's Water Supplies have been submitted for bacteriological examination from time to time and on nearly every occasion satisfactory reports were received.

I append also my Port Health report for the year 1955 which complies with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Form Port 20.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

November, 1956.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .....	2,350
Population Mid 1955 .....	10,400
Population 1951 Census .....	10,597
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1955 ..... £.	100,618
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1955 ..... £.	101,981
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1955 ..... £.	402

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	68	50	118
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	<hr/> 70 <hr/>	<hr/> 50 <hr/>	<hr/> 120 <hr/>

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	11.54
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.73
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	12.58
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.34
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	15.0


#### STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	0.19
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	16.38
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon	22.7
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	23.2

#### DEATHS

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 74.64 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths was 72.27 years and for female deaths 76.39 years.



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Male	Female	Total
75	102	177

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	17.02
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	9.87
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.58
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	10.79
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	11.7

#### Infant Mortality

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births			8.33
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			24.1
Corresponding rate for England and Wales			24.9

#### Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births			8.33
Neo-Natal Mortality rate for England and Wales			17.3

#### Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the area during 1955. Five maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

#### AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under Four weeks	1	-
Infants under One year	-	-
1 -	-	-
5 -	-	1
15 -	1	-
25 -	2	1
carried forward	4	2



AGE AT DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	4	2
45 -	7	17
65 -	25	16
75 and over	39	67
	<u>75</u>	<u>102</u>

Total: 177

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	75	102
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	19
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	13
Coronary disease, angina	12	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	13	22
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Pneumonia	3	-
Bronchitis	4	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	16
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	2	4
Suicide	1	1
	<u>75</u>	<u>102</u>

Total: 177



### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	33	33	66
Measles	80	83	163
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Erysipelas	-	3	3
	<u>119</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>240</u>

Total: 240

### TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. Details are set out in the following table:-

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>	<u>CASES</u>			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under five years	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	2	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1
65 and over	1	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Total: 6

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in three cases during 1955.



## WATER SUPPLY

In the Spring of 1955 the improvement scheme for Shaldon was completed, and Shaldon was divided into high and low level areas, the former being served from the new Forches reservoir and the latter from the old reservoir.

West Teignmouth, which in previous years had suffered from a very poor supply, was provided with new leading mains from Headway Cross and the problem was solved before the height of the Summer.

Designs and negotiations for the new service reservoir in West Teignmouth are in hand and this will ensure two days storage for this area which is at present served directly from the trunk main. Arrangements are also in hand for the provision of the waste water detection scheme, and the renewal of the mains under the River Teign is under consideration.

Several new mains to new building estates and miscellaneous minor improvements have been made during the year.

Population supplied:-            Winter 11,000  
   Summer 20,000 - 25,000.

Total number of dwellings (including flats and Council Houses) 3,185 (as recorded by the Inland Revenue under the New Valuation System).  
This figure does not include businesses with flats over.

Total consumption:-	High level	100,394,000	gallons
	Low level	69,338,000	"
	Shaldon	26,233,550	"
		<hr/>	
		195,965,550	"
	Metered off trunk main	1,247,700	"
	Unmetered supplies	1,949,180	"
	Bulk supply to Bishopsteignton	4,799,000	"
		<hr/>	
		203,961,430	"
		<hr/>	

Maximum daily consumption - 800,100 gallons (August)

I am indebted to the Council's Water Engineer for the above report.



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1955

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

### INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

During the year 2,743 inspections and visits have been made in connection with Official Duties. These are divided as follows :-

Inspections re Housing	465
Inspections re Nuisances, Drainage, etc.	977
Inspections of Food Premises, etc.	215
Inspections of Factories and Workplaces	100
Visits in connection with Rat and Mice Infestations	336
Visits in connection with Refuse	326
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases, etc.	18
Visits - Miscellaneous	306

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The built-up portion of the District is sewered and with the exception of a few out-lying houses and farms, which are removed from such sewers, the whole of the houses in the District discharge to pipe sewers which are connected, via storage tanks and pumping stations, to two controlled outlets at the mouth of the River Teign.

### FOOD INSPECTION

There are now no licensed or registered slaughter-houses in the District and all meat is brought to the Town from Slaughter-houses at Newton Abbot, Exeter, etc.... During the year 215 visits have been paid to food premises and 456 tins and packets of various foodstuffs, weighing approximately 1,031 lbs. have been condemned. The following quantities of other foods were also surrendered :-

Fish	.....	214 lbs.
Beef	.....	70 lbs.
Bacon	.....	57 lbs.
Sausages	.....	33 lbs.
Prunes	.....	7 lbs.
Butter	.....	3 lbs.

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Total : 384 lbs.

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making a total weight of 1,415 lbs. condemned as unfit for human food. No legal action was necessary in regard to any of the above.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This is under the control of the Public Health Department. Collection of refuse from all private properties is executed once weekly by two "Karrier Bots" refuse vehicles, with assistance by the Surveyor's or hired lorries during the summer season when twice weekly collections from Hotels and Boarding Houses is essential. Tipping, by controlled methods, is at the Council's Tip at Broadmeadow, which it is proposed eventually to convert to an extensive level area, capable of accommodating football grounds, cricket pitches, tennis courts, etc., which are badly needed in the District.

## HOUSING

During the year 18 new Housing Units have been erected and occupied on the South side of Bitton Street. These comprise :-

12	-	2 bedroom Maisonettes
2	-	3 bedroom Flats
2	-	2 bedroom Flats
2	-	1 bedroom Flats

and are arranged in three blocks each containing 4 Maisonettes with 2 Flats per block underneath. Also 7 of the 10 one bedroom Old Persons Bungalows were completed and occupied by the end of the year. These premises have filled a great need for the fortunate 7 tenants (and the other three who have been selected since) and it is hoped that the further provision of similar dwellings for persons of 65 years or over will be possible.

Fifty five new tenants have been accommodated during the year in the 25 new Housing Units and vacated Council properties. As far as possible, with the premises available, transfers are arranged between tenants so that the size of the house concerned is in proportion to the size of the family. The list of applicants for the tenancies of Council premises shows little sign of decreasing.

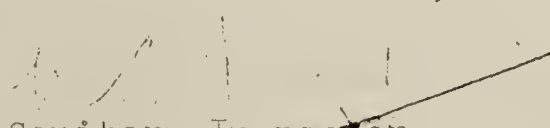
During the year 4 premises have been de-requisitioned and 5 families rehoused in other Council accommodation in consequence. At the end of the year 6 premises, accommodating twelve families, remained under Requisition.

## RODENT CONTROL

This remains one of the major duties of the Public Health Department. During the twelve months ended the 31st. March 1956 - 106 premises were treated for the eradication of rats and/or mice, with satisfactory results. These treatments entailed 220 visits and in addition numerous inspections were made of other properties to establish the degree, if any, of infestation. Also the annual test baiting followed by the half yearly treatments of the Council's sewers were made, as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

  
Sanitary Inspector.

October, 1956.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE  
YEAR 1955 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TEIGNMOUTH IN THE COUNTY OF  
DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

	No: on Register	Inspection -tions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which S 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by L/A	33	38	6	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which S 7 is enforced by the L/A	73	62	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which S 7 is enforced by the L/A (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	10		Nil
TOTALS	113	110	10	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

		<u>No: of cases in which def- ects were found.</u>				<u>No: of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted.</u>
		Found	Reme- died	To H.M. Insptr.	By H.M. Insptr.	
Want of cleanliness	S 1	3	3	-	1	Nil
Overcrowding	S 2	-	-	-	-	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature	S 3	-	-	-	-	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation	S 4	-	-	-	-	Nil
Ineffective drainage of Floors	S 6	-	-	-	-	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient	S 7	-	-	-	-	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective		3	3	-	-	Nil
(c) Not separate for Sexes		1	1	-	-	Nil
Other offences against the Act.		3	3		1	Nil
TOTALS		10	10	-	2	Nil

No cases of outwork being carried on in unwholesome premises  
have been found and consequently Table 3 has not been included.



SECTION I - STAFF

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments
Dr. H. Davies	Port Medical Officer	10th. July, 1953	M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H..	Medical Officer of Health Newton Abbot R.D.C. Dawlish U.D.C. Newton Abbot U.D.C. Teignmouth U.D.C.  Assistant County Medical Officer Devon County Council
N.S. Tucker	Port Health Inspector	5th. June, 1923	C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Meat & Other Foods Certificate)	Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer Teignmouth U.D.C.
Address and telephone number of } Medical Officer of Health } Council Offices, Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot 'phone Newton Abbot 715/6				



SECTION II

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B.

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER	TONNAGE	NUMBER INSPECTED		NUMBER OF SHIPS REPORTED AS HAVING HAD, DURING THE VOYAGE, INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON BOARD.
			BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR	
Foreign Ports	93	20,430	4	6	Nil
Coastwise	333	75,328	7	20	Nil
Total	426	95,758	11	26	Nil



### SECTION III

#### CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C.

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Passenger Traffic ...	(Number of Passengers Inwards	- 6
	(Number of Passengers Outwards	- 10

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Cargo Traffic ...	(Principal Imports	- Coal, cement, timber, Cyder, apples and potatoes.
	(Principal exports	- Clay.

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#### PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive:-

FOREIGN:- Abo, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Archangel, Brest, Caen, Deauville, Delfzijl, Concarneau, Ghent, Gravelines, Honfleur, Kotka, L'Orient, Le Havre, Le Legue, Oulu, Gelfe, Quimper, Mantyluoto, Rouen, Rotterdam.

COASTWISE:- Amble, Avonmouth, Belfast, Blyth, Cardiff, Fleetwood, Dublin, Goole, Hull, Keadby, London, Littlehampton, Newcastle, Plymouth, Poole, Rochester, Southampton, Swansea, Waterford, Wicklow, Guernsey, Jersey.

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### SECTION IV

#### INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Numbers and tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic - Nil.

### SECTION V

#### WATER SUPPLY

- (1) Source of Supply for (a) the district, and (b) shipping.

The main water supply which serves the district is used for the shipping.

- (2) Reports of tests for contamination

Regular samples of water are taken from all the Council's sources of supply and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results received are satisfactory.

- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

The hydrants and hosepipes are regularly inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector. The hosepipes are stored under cover by the Teignmouth Quay Co. Ltd. and are well flushed out prior to use.



## SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY (continued)

- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats.  
There are no water boats operating at this port.

## SECTION VI

### PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

- (1) List of Infected Areas.

The weekly record of Quarantinable Diseases issued by the Ministry of Health is forwarded by post to the Preventive Officer, Customs House, Teignmouth.

- (2) Radio Messages.

- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for sending Wireless Messages if required. None were sent during 1955.

- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for receiving Wireless Messages if required. None were received during 1955.

- (3) Notifications otherwise than by radio.

A 24 hour watch is maintained at H.M. Coastguard Station at Brixham from which signals by morse or flag may be sent or received as and when necessary.

- (4) Mooring Stations.

Where action is to be taken under Regulations 22 - 30 the ship will be made fast in the harbour at No. 1 Tier of Buoys off the New Quay.

- (5) Arrangements for:-

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Smallpox - see Section VII)

Patients suffering from infectious disease will be transferred by ambulance to either the Isolation Hospital at Torquay (Tel. No. Torquay 63276) or to the Isolation Hospital at Whipton, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 67158).

- (b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.

This will be carried out by the Port Medical Officer whilst the ship is within this port. Arrangements have also been made for letters to be given to the contacts in cases when the ship has to proceed to another port before the expiration of the period of surveillance. The contacts will be instructed to take these letters to the Port Medical Officer of the next port of call thus informing him of the circumstances.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

Disinfection of ships will, when necessary, be undertaken by the Port Sanitary Inspector. Disinfection of clothing or bedding may be carried out at the steam disinfectant station of the Teignmouth Urban District Council.



## SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952 (contd.)

### (5) Arrangements for:-

#### (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles. (continued)

Cleansing of verminous persons will be carried out by staff of the Public Health Department, Borough of Torquay.

## SECTION VII

### SMALLPOX

- (1) The Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases will be sent from the district is the Smallpox Hospital, Upton Pyne, near Exeter (Tel. No. Stoke Cannon 207). Admissions made through the Medical Officer of the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. (Tel. No. Exeter 67158).
- (2) Transport arrangements for smallpox cases will be made by the Medical Officer of Health of the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter.
- (3) The following consultants are available as and when necessary:-
  - (1) Dr. C. Seward - 20 West Southernhay, Exeter  
Tel. Nos. Exeter 72110 - Day.  
Exmouth 4120 - Night.
  - (2) Dr. W.J. Laird - City Hospital, Exeter.  
Tel. Nos. Exeter 72671 - Day.  
Exeter 73116 - Night.
- (4) Specimens for laboratory diagnosis will be sent to the:-  
Virus Reference Laboratory,  
Central Public Health Laboratory,  
Colindale,  
LONDON, N.W. 9.

## SECTION VIII

### Venereal Disease

Facilities are available for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements.

Torbay Hospital, Torquay - Tel. No. Torquay 63254

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays,  
and Saturdays - 17.00 hrs. to 19.00 hrs.

## SECTION IX

### Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

No cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases were reported during the year.



## SECTION X

### Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

No cases of Malaria were notified during the year.

## SECTION XI

### Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No action was necessary under this section.

## SECTION XII

### Measures against Rodents in ships from foreign ports.

#### (1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

Enquiries are made from masters of vessels using the port, by the Port Sanitary Inspector, regarding the presence of rats.

#### (2) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Facilities are available for the bacteriological examination of rodents at the:-

Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter  
Tel. No. Exeter 54959.

No rodents were sent for examination during the year.

#### (3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

A ship requiring deratting would be referred to Plymouth.

#### (4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

No action is taken in this matter at Teignmouth.

### TABLE E - Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

No rats have been destroyed, at Teignmouth, in ships from foreign ports during 1955.

### TABLE F - Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Not applicable to this authority.



### SECTION XIII

#### Inspection of ships for nuisances.

##### TABLE G - Inspections and Notices.

Thirty-seven routine inspections were carried out during the year.

No action was necessary regarding the service of Notices.

### SECTION XIV

#### Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948

The Teign Mussel Industry, which was given a new lease of life by the system of purification devised by the Fisheries Experiment Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Conway, continued to thrive throughout 1955.

Nineteen series of samples, covering in all forty-eight separate tests, have been taken and examined at Conway. Fifteen of these samples, which were of mussels before treatment, showed pollution, but thirty-three samples taken during, and after completed treatment, gave satisfactory results. These results indicate the efficiency of the cleansing process and the purity of the shell fish as sold for human consumption.

### SECTION XV

#### Medical Inspection of Aliens

Not applicable to this authority.

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